

48, in Great Lakes, Illinois. Sgt. Cummings also bravely served his country in Iraq supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. He passed away while on assignment at Marine Air Base in Yuma, Arizona at the age of twenty-four.

Sgt. Cummings is predeceased by his grandparents, Charles and Helen Cummings and Becky Correia. He is survived by his grandfather, Toddy Correia of Manasquan, New Jersey, his parents, Richard, Sr. and Odette Cummings of Deal, New Jersey, his sister, brother-in-law and niece, Stefanie, Aaron and Rebecca Green of Ocean Township, New Jersey and his sister and brother-in-law Amy and Jim Bonney of Brownsville, Vermont. Also surviving are his uncle and aunts, Elliott and Marybeth Correia, Dennis and Sheri Cummings, and cousins, Todd and Lt. Mark Correia, Gregory Cummings. He will also be missed by his cousins Amanda, Toby, Mia and Izzy Wood of Austin, Texas. Sgt. Cummings will always be remembered as a loving son, brother, gracious friend and loyal Marine.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in memorializing the life and legacy of Sgt. Richard A. Cummings, Jr. His faithful dedication and service toward his country continue to uphold the proud legacy and motto of the United States Marine Corps of honor, courage and commitment.

THE REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC SCHOOLS ACT

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague, Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN, and I, as co-chairs of the Historic Preservation Caucus, introduced the Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act, which would incentivize private investment to help rehabilitate our country's older K-12 public school buildings.

It is imperative that we improve our educational facilities to help our children learn and compete in today's economy. According to the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, 28 percent of all public K-12 schools were built before 1950. In addition, a study by the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the quality of our nation's public school facilities a "D" rating. As state and local governments continue to feel pressure in this difficult economy, Congress must remove red tape that hinders private investment in our public schools.

Established by Congress over thirty years ago, the Historic Tax Credit, HTC, has helped create 2.2 million jobs, incentivized nearly \$100 billion in private investment, and renovated more than 38,000 buildings, while helping to revitalize our communities and protect our country's cultural heritage. In 2011, the HTC leveraged more than \$4 billion in private investment and helped create nearly 56,000 jobs to rehabilitate 937 projects.

Unfortunately, under current law, a restriction on the prior use of a property limits the ability of local governments to partner with private developers to rehabilitate older public schools through the use of the HTC. This bipartisan and bicameral bill would remove this

barrier, incentivizing the renovation of older K-12 public schools, improving the learning environment for our nation's youth and helping spur local job creation.

Our communities must have the ability to provide our children with the premier, 21st Century education they deserve. By allowing this incentivized private investment, school districts can rehabilitate their facilities at lower costs and dedicate more funding to educating their students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to co-sponsor this important bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Chair, it is DoD policy that when a servicemember becomes a casualty, his remains are returned to the family as quickly as possible with the utmost respect and dignity.

This policy was revised and mandated by Congress in 2008 when new requirements were established for transportation and honor guards for the remains of combat casualties.

As a nation, we owe our fallen heroes and their families a debt that can never truly be repaid. The dignified transfer of a casualty is the least that we can do to honor the sacrifice paid by the men and women who volunteer to lay their life down in the defense of others.

I am happy that this bill in front of us today fully funds the transportation and escort of these heroes, and want to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for continuing to make this a priority.

I remember meeting with a family from my district last year whose son, Corporal Johnathan W. Taylor, gave his life defending our freedom on February 22, 2011 in Afghanistan.

Now beside his fellow brothers in uniform, his parents, Mark and Deborah, have said that they were proud to have seen their son off on what they like to call his final tour of duty.

This final tour of duty was important for his family, as well as his friends and fellow Marines.

It was important because they all had the opportunity to see Corporal Taylor return home for the last time, with the honor and military escort he has so rightfully earned.

Continuing to fully fund this important mission will allow other families, who have made the most difficult sacrifice imaginable, the opportunity to watch their children return home and laid to rest as a national hero.

Army SPC Clarence Williams III will be laid to rest next Monday, on July 23, in the Florida National Cemetery. He was killed in action in Afghanistan last week.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
BRANDON D. GOODINE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today with great sadness to honor one of Georgia's own, Private First Class Brandon D. Goodine. On June 7th, Brandon gave the ultimate sacrifice when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device by enemy forces in the Maiwand District of Kandahar province in Afghanistan while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Brandon was a beloved father, husband, brother, and son. He was taken from us much too soon, but not without accomplishing great things. He believed his greatest was his 3 year old daughter, Kathryn. Brandon became a father at a young age, but devoted his life to making sure Kathryn had everything she needed. In fact, his reason for joining the Army was so that he could be sure she was taken care of. Her birth gave him direction and purpose in life, helping him believe he could accomplish anything. Everything that Brandon did was for Kathryn.

Giving everything 110% was what Brandon did. He was just an all around great guy striving to make something of himself. Brandon attended Henry County High School, and later joined the Navy ROTC at Greenville High School. On May 2, 2011, he joined the Army and served as a scout with Bravo Troop, 4th Battalion, 73rd Cavalry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC. In his unit, he was a brother to his fellow paratroopers. They remember not only laughing and having fun with him, but his kindness and generosity. Going out of his way to volunteer or help someone was not unusual for Brandon. On June 7th, he was assigned to a mission to prevent the enemy from freely attacking peaceful communities. He bravely gave his life doing what he did best, helping others and giving them a chance for a better life.

His commitment to his daughter, family, and our country inspired his older brother, Christopher, to enlist in the Army 3 months later. Brandon's mother, Mandy, said she was not only proud to be his mother, but his friend. He was a hero to his family, a role model for his three sisters and brother, and, a loving father, a dedicated husband to his wife, Nicole. One of the biggest tributes to Brandon's life has been the support from the community. When Brandon was being transported home, flags were placed along the road to honor him and his sacrifice. He was laid to rest on June 18 by his close friends and family in McDonough, GA.

I am proud to stand before you to honor the life of PFC Brandon Goodine and to thank him for his service to our country. Brandon has left a lasting impression on all those he has touched, and his bravery will never be forgotten.

Joan and I extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Brandon, and we will never forget his great sacrifice for our nation so that we may all live free.